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UNCLAS BAGHDAD 004805

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, NEA/PPD, NEA/PPA, NEA/AGS, INR/IZ, INR/P

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - December 1, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussion of administrative corruption is the major editorial theme of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on December 1, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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[1A.](#) "Integrity and Corruption"
(Editorial by Mohammed Jubair - Kitabat - "Writings" Website
(<http://www.kitabat.com>) - independent based in Germany)

"Wherever you find corruption, you also find integrity. This is an everlasting duality linked to the existence of good people and bad people, and in Iraq, an integrity commission has been established to monitor the performance of government institutes and prevent administrative corruption.

"With the rule of law subsiding against the ruler's law, corruption can be found at the top of executive hierarchies, and it is no longer a shameful subject to mention. The integrity commission carries the huge burden of serious corruption issues, and according to Judge Radhi Al-Radhi, the head of the Commission on Public Integrity, in several interviews, he fears the effects of the disclosure of these cases and the names of those involved in administrative corruption and the abuse of public funds.

"If an official or even an ordinary person addresses this subject, he will start to blame the former regime for passing on its corrupt heritage to the current government which has prepared a suitable environment for corruption. But corruption of the past doesn't justify that of today, and higher levels at ministries and institutes should be the first frontier in stranding up to and eliminating such practices, rather than being the first to take part in them.

"The huge responsibility of the commission, and the large number of cases investigated but yet to be announced, place the commission's employees and their families under the fear of serious threats, and these threats are realistic in a situation where those defending what is right become the weaker party against the powerful defenders of wrong. But this situation is a temporary stage that shouldn't last, and the rule of law should prevail again. The people should be able to hold accountable all those taking advantage of the country's wealth, and at the end of the day, righteousness is the only thing to prevail."

KHALILZAD